

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-08 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NRC-05 OES-06
FEAE-00 DODE-00 ERDA-05 TRSE-00 XMB-02 SAJ-01 /092 W
-----021434Z 021071 /41

R 021050Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7208
USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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STATE FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, KU, ETRD
SUBJ: KUWAIT TO INVITE BIDS ON SMALL NUCLEARREACTOR

REF: 76 KUWAIT 5063.

1. LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT GOK, THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER (MEW), HAS ISSUED A "GLOBAL TENDER" FOR THE ERECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SMALL NUCLEAR REACTOR TO STUDY POSSIBILITY OF SHIFTING FROM USING GAS OR OIL TO ATOMIC ENERGY FOR POWER GENERATION AND WATER DESALINIZATION. REACTOR, ACCORDING TO MEW CHIEF ENGINEER DR. ZAKI ABU EID, WOULD GIVE MEASURE OF COSTS AND MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS AND
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PROVIDE TRAINING FOR KUWAITI OPERATORS. ABU EID ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE STATED, THAT CONTACTS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE WITH SAUDI ARABIA, "AS WE HOPE THAT THE ATOMIC REACTOR WILL BE A CENTER FOR TRAINING AND A NUCLEAR SCHOOL NOT ONLY FOR KUWAIT BUT FOR THE WHOLE REGION".

2. ABU EID, IN SEPERATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, CONFIRMED

NEWSPAPER STORY AND CLARIFIED WORDS "GLOBAL TENDER". WHAT HAS ACTUALLY BEEN SENT TO FOREIGN FIRMS, ABU EID SAID, WAS AN "INQUIRY" SOLICITING SUBMISSION OF BIDS ON SMALL REACTOR, THERE BEING NO DEFINATE DEADLINE. HE NOTED THAT INVITATION HAD BEEN SENT TO EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE FIRMS ONLY; REACTION OF US FIRMS TO KUWAITI PLANS DURING PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION STATE WAS "NOT POSITIVE". ALTHOUGH MOST INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS PROJECT, INCLUDING DEC VISIT OF NEW MINISTER, HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITH FRG AND WEST GERMAN MANUFACTURER KRAFTERKUNION, CHIEF ENGINEER OBSERVED THAT US PARTICIPATION ON PROJECT WOULD BE WELCOME.

3. COMMENT: CALL FOR BIDS APPEARS TO BE SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE FOR PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN KUWAIT, ONE OF DR. ABU EID'S PET PROJECTS (REF). HOWEVER, FACT THAT TENDERS HAVE NOT BEEN OFFERED AND NO DEADLINE SET FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS INDICATES THAT KUWAITIS ARE IN NO RUSH; AND, IN FACT, NO DEFINITE DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN BY GOK. IN PAST DR. ABU EID (CONSIDERED TO BE PRIME MOVER IN KUWAIT'S NUCLEAR DEVELOPEMENT PROGRAM) HAS EMPHASIZED TRAINING PURPOSES OF REACTOR, ON ASSUMPTION THAT LARGER REACTORS WOULD BE BUILT. IN RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, ABU EID HAS SHIFTED JUSTIFICATION SOMEWHAT TOWARDS FEASIBILITY TESTING. PRESS ARTICLES REPORTED ABU EID STATEMENT THAT "IF THE EXPERIENCE SUCCEEDS AND THE REACTOR PROVES ECONOMICAL, LARGER REACTOR WILL BE USED". STATEMENT IMPLIES THAT IF SMALL REACTOR NOT ECONOMICAL, LARGER ONE MIGHT NOT BE BUILT. THIS IS, IN FACT, POSITION OF US FIRMS, SUCH AS WESTINGHOUSE, WHICH DO NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUILD SMALL REACTORS AT ALL. GIVEN CONTINUING SHARP DEBATE WITHIN GOK OVER NEED TO JUSTIFY PROJECTS ON THEIR ECONOMIC MERITS, THERE IS STILL NO CERTAINTY THAT SMALL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PROJECT WILL GO AHEAD, PARTICULARLY IF BIDS SHOULD REVEAL UNJUSTIFIABLY HIGH COST COMPARED TO BENEFITS. MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR REACTORS, ELECTRIC POWER, PROPOSALS (BID)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT00650
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770037-0336
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770282/aaaacudm.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ae6e6dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KUWAIT 5063
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3433002
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KUWAIT TO INVITE BIDS ON SMALL NUCLEARREACTOR
TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, KU
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ae6e6dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009